

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, August 2th, 2012

Wallace State Office Bldg, Des Moines, Ia

Appointed SSCC Members in Attendance:

Jean Eells, SSCC Member, Webster City
Dale Farnham, SSCC Member, Ames
Vance Hjelm, SSCC Member, Lake Park
Jodi Kerns, SSCC Member, Edgewood
Jeani Leyda, SSCC Member, Bloomfield
Sherman Lundy, SSCC Member, Cedar Falls
Charles McCullough, SSCC Member, Bernard
Kelly Tobin, Chair, SSCC Member, New Market
Harold Whipple, SSCC Member, Lacona

Ex Officio Members and Advisors in Attendance:

Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources
John Hubbert, Natural Resources Conservation Service
John Lawrence, Iowa State Extension

Staff in Attendance:

Todd Coffelt, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Jim Gillespie, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Wayne Peterson, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Tarrita Spicer, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines

Additional in Attendance:

Jamie Carpenter, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clare Kerkofsky, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Darrell Weems, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Ben Gleason, Iowa Corn Growers
Adam Broich, Iowa State Legislators office

Absent:

Dave Shanahan, Cherokee County Engineers Association

Tobin called meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2012 – 55 Kerns made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Leyda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 – 56 Farnham made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12th meeting. Eells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports

- Field Services – Sitzmann (presented by Gillespie; hardcopy of report in DSC file)
 - State Technician in Marion County, new posting.
 - Adams and Sioux interviews should begin this month and positions will possibly be filled by beginning of Sept.
- Mines & Minerals – Coffelt (hardcopy of report in DSC file)
 - \$3 million grant was awarded through 2023
 - Todd will work on specifics for the committees registrations for NAAMLPA and communicate volunteer opportunities.
- Water Resources – Coffelt (hardcopy of report in DSC file)
 - WIRB had 27 applications for a total of \$1 million submitted. Aug 17th is the selection date.
 - Planning started for Iowa Water Conference in March 2013.

Director's Report – Gillespie (hardcopy of report in DSC file)

- Tammy Grebert, Fremont SWCD, June Employee of the Month (EOM). Tammy.grebert@ia.nacdnet.net
- Ruth Holan, Adair, July EOM. Ruth.holan@ia.nacdnet.net
- I-Jobs funding needs to be used by June 30, 2013
- RAGBRAI – opportunities for outreach to discuss Iowa, Agriculture, programs, etc.
- Summer construction – Oct 15th is the cutoff. Soil compaction issues. An extension will be requested this year through December, 2012. Also, allow haying and grazing. (Filed Emergency, Chapter 10 Administrative Rules)
- Nutrient Reduction Strategy – currently under review; there will be a session during Annual Conference.
- Cover crops added as cost share practice (Filed Emergency, Chapter 10 Administrative Rules)

Partner Reports

- Natural Resource Conservation Service – Hubbert (hardcopy of report in DSC file)
 - Field Office of the Future – drafting the first plan. Next conference call August 14th.
 - Nine (9) temporary Wetland Specialist positions open.
 - Introduced Jamie Carpenter the new Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (Area 4)
- Harry Hillaker, IDALS, State Climatologist
 - Presentation on the drought, link to “Water Summary Update”
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WaterSummaryUpdate>
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins (hardcopy of report in DSC file)
- Conservation Districts of Iowa – Weems
 - Introduction of new CDI Executive Director, Clare Kerofsky
- Iowa State Extension – Lawrence (hardcopy of report in DSC file)
- Engineers – Shanahan (Nothing to report at this time)
- Leopold Center – (provided by Jennifer Steffens):
 - Our new Director Dr. Mark Rassmussen started June 1st and hit the ground running - he is well through the process of visiting every board member at their home or place of work. He has found it to be an enlightening experience to see the diversity of landscape and the vastness of our current drought- certainly gives food for thought for improvements in agricultural sustainability. Mark is spending additional time in Ames becoming acquainted with staff and current programs. The process for submitting grant proposals is being updated. And finally a board staff retreat is being planned for this fall.

Old Business

- Research and Demonstration RFA Update – August 31st deadline.
- FY14 Budget Update
 - Reviewed updated budget request, meeting with Sec. Northey on July 26th to review.
- Annual Conference Update
 - Sept 4th- 6th, registration underway
- Governors Environmental Leadership Awards: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/IowaEnvironmentalAwards.aspx>
- Prairie, Wetlands & Croplands; Cover Crops and Fertilization Project final reports

New Business

- SSCC Handbook (draft) was passed around
- Water Summary/Drought Conditions was discussed
- Annual Conference Awards: Soil Water Resource Conservation Plan, SRF Lenders

Subcommittee Reports

- Urban Conservation Committee – Farnham
 - Shared minutes and mission statement from the first meeting held July 27th.

Vacancies in the Office of SWCD Commissioner

- Vacancy:
 - Franklin SWCD – Recommendation to appoint Brian Tegtmeyer of Hampton (Ingham Township) to fill the vacancy due to the passing of Carlyn Schwieger, April 28, 2012, until the November election. Brian works for a waste management company and is involved with the Franklin Co Conservation Board.

2012 – 57 Sherm made a motion to approve the appointments in Franklin SWCD. Jean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Vacancy: (previously approved and noted)
 - Crawford SWCD – Recommendation to appoint Steve Vary (Paradise Township) to fill the unexpired term of Kyle Bohnker. Steve currently farms and runs a small cow/calf operation. He is a member of the Crawford County Cattlemen.

2012 – 58 Jean made a motion to approve the appointment in Crawford SWCD. Jody seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCC Member Reports

- Jean: shared link www.mycountyparks.com
- Jeani: attended Watershed tours, assisted with county fairs
- Sherm: supported Iowa Geological Survey
- Dale: attended Mine Reclamation Day
- Harold: attended Warren Co, No till field day
- Jody: attended Pine Creek kick off, Delaware County commissioners meeting. Will assist with Tree Farmer of the Year award being held Friday, Sept 21st.
- Vance: attended the Dickinson County tour as well as the Cherokee County tour.
- Kelly: met with the Governor; Aug 7th will attend cover crops presentation by FFA @ 2:15pm. Field day on his farm August 21st at 4pm.

Future Meetings

September 4th – CDI/SSCC joint meeting 3:00pm

October 4th – Conference call if needed

2012 – 59 Sherm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:18pm. Dale seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.